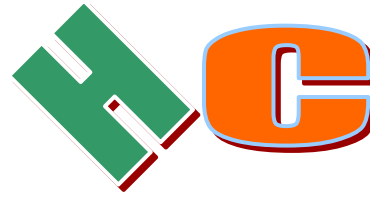


Go! By Susan Cain



The Letters of Christmas

DRAMA

Materials: Construction paper or poster board and a marker

Quest Connection

I have a poem that I would like you to hear! I need some helpers to hold up the right letter when I say it! (Pass out letters to students. Point to them when it is their turn to hold up the letter. Repeat activity until everyone has had a turn.)

Procedure: Hold up each letter as you read the poem.

C: “C” is for cute; that’s what baby Jesus was
H: “H” is for happy; how their hearts were filled with love
R: “R” is for radiant; His parents beamed so bright
I: “I” is for the inn; there was no room there that night
S: “S” is for the star that twinkled in the sky
T: “T” is for “Terrific,” they said, “wonderful” and “my, oh, my”
M: “M” is for the manger where Jesus laid upon the hay
A: “A” is for the angels who told of Jesus’ birth that day
S: “S” is for the shepherds who came running to give praise
just like we do with our little arms raised. (raise your arms)

Hint: This poem could be used as a drama for Sunday School opening or your Christmas program or just used in the classroom to teach letters.

Close

The word “Christmas” and its letters stand for many things about Jesus’ birthday. End the lessons with prayer, thanking God for giving us such a nice gift as Jesus.

Go! By Susan Cain



The Toy That Saved Christmas

VIDEO

Materials: Veggie Tales “The Toy That Saved Christmas” cued twenty-five minutes from the beginning (lasts approximately 4 minutes)

Quest Connection

What is the first thing you think of when I say the word “Christmas”? (Children will probably say gifts, parties, etc.) **We are going to watch part of a video about the real meaning of Christmas!**

Procedure: Show video.

Close

“The Toy That Saved Christmas” teaches children that “Christmas isn’t about getting, it’s about giving. And it’s especially about a little baby named Jesus, who was the greatest gift of all!” Discuss this with your class.

Go! By Susan Cain



Christmas Senses

SCIENCE

Materials: Piece of soft cloth, hay (handful), crackers, water, raisins, nativity

Quest Connection

This is an exciting time of year isn't it! I love all the wonderful things that we see, hear touch, smell, and taste. First let's think of some of the things we see during Christmas.

Procedure:

Have children name several things that they:

SEE: (decorations, Christmas play or movie, Christmas tree, etc.)

HEAR: (carols, wrapping paper, giggling children, cash registers, etc.)

SMELL: (Christmas trees, baking, candles, peppermint, etc.)

TASTE: (peppermint candy, gingerbread, fudge, etc.)

TOUCH: (wrapping paper, snow, warm hugs)

If you were at the VERY first Christmas, what are some of the things you would:

TOUCH: (have students touch the piece of cloth, swaddling clothes and hay)

SMELL: (have students smell hay)

HEAR: (make an animal sound or crying baby, have children guess what it is)

SEE: (nativity scene, star)

TASTE: (Joseph and Mary probably only had crackers, water, figs)

Close

Isn't it wonderful that God made us to be able to enjoy Jesus' birthday with our five senses. Let's thank Him right now! (Pray with your students)

Go! By Susan Cain



Open House**VARIETY**

Materials: A large room such as your social hall and several tables, ideas from Teach Resource Page “Open House”

Quest Connection

Procedure: Invite parents a couple of weeks in advance to your Open House. It could be during your regular Sunday School class time, after church or an evening of your choice. You can make this as elaborate as you’d like with refreshments, decorations, music, and helpers at each center.

Close

This activity is a great way for parents to see what is going on in your classroom. Follow up this activity by sending any pictures you have taken during the Open House and thanking them for attending.

Go! By Susan Cain



Flip Book

BOOK MAKING

Materials: A copy of both “Flip Book” worksheets for each student, scissors, glue stick, crayons

Quest Connection

We are going to make a book to help us remember the story of Jesus’ birth. I want you to be a good listener and follow my directions.

Procedure: Have each student cut the three bold, solid lines only to the dotted line. Fold the paper in half along the dotted line, leaving the text on the inside. Students will color the pictures on “Flip Book” worksheet #2. Cut out the pictures and glue them in the correct sequence on the book flaps.

Close

What a wonderful book! Who would like to read it to me? Now you can share the good news of Jesus being born with your family and friends.

FLIP BOOK
PAGE TWO



1



2



3



4

An angel came and told Mary that she would have a baby.
Luke 1:27-31

Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, but couldn't find a place to stay.
Luke 2:1-7

Baby Jesus was born in a stable. Mary wrapped Him in a blanket and laid Him in a manger.
Luke 2:7

An angel said to shepherds, "Don't be afraid, I have good news! Jesus has been born to save you! Go and find Him in a manger!"
Luke 2:8-12

Teacher Resource

OPEN HOUSE

Divide the room up into different areas (centers) where each family will go and do the various activities. Have a note or a helper to explain how each center will work. To create a holiday atmosphere, have Christmas music playing.

Center #1: **Nativity Set** A real non-breakable Nativity Set to play with to retell the story of Jesus' birth to their parents. If the child does not know the story of Baby Jesus, have the parents or helper tell of the different parts of the scene.

Center #2: **Letter Recognition** Place the letters of Christmas on a table and see if the children can put them in order as the parents read the poem. See activity The Letters of Christmas.

Center #3: **Decorate Cookies** Place undecorated cookies or graham crackers on a table with icing, sprinkles, candies and/or different colors of icing in loaded icing bags with different shaped tips. Have plates, knives, napkins, wet wipes and baggies (to take cookie home) nearby.

Center #4: **Dress Up** Have different sized robes, towels, fabric and rope or cords to tie as belts, fancy crowns, boxes, or anything that would be appropriate for a person in Bible times at Jesus' birth. Have a helper take pictures of each family group as they come to this center.

Center #5: **Manger Craft** **Materials:** Modeling dough, garlic press, egg cartons cut into individual cups. **Procedure:** Squeeze dough through the garlic press to make hay. Place hay in egg carton cup manger. Make a small baby figure by rolling a small ball for the body and a smaller ball for the head. Put these together and place them in the hay.

Hint: You could replace this craft with one of your own.

Center #6: **Sand Table** **Materials:** A tub filled 2/3 of the way with sand or cornmeal, wise men from the nativity scene, camels, plastic palm trees (found in cake decorating supplies). **Procedure:** Have children walk the wise men and camels through the sand from "east" to the "west" to show the direction the wise men came.

Display students' artwork throughout the room.

Coloring Sheet

(available for free downloads from http://www.sermons4kids.com/mary_jesus_colorpg.htm)